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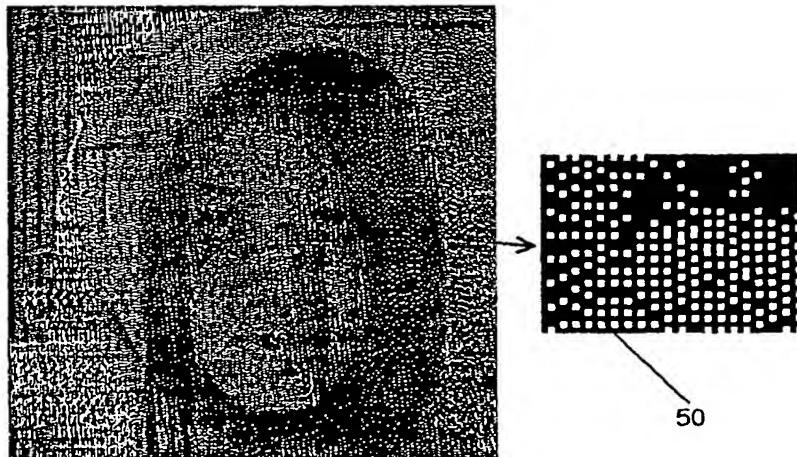
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A METHOD OF FORMING A DIFFRACTIVE DEVICE



(57) Abstract: There is disclosed a method of forming a diffractive authentication device which generates an optically variable image which varies according to the angle of observation. The method comprises the steps of, providing a primary pattern which encodes a latent image, the primary pattern having a plurality of image elements, and providing a corresponding secondary pattern which will decode the primary pattern to allow the latent image to be observed when the primary and secondary patterns are in at least one registration, wherein the secondary pattern is provided by a diffraction grating microstructure having a plurality of each of at least two different types of diffraction elements. The primary pattern is provided such that predetermined image elements of the primary pattern render diffraction effects from predetermined diffraction elements of the diffraction grating microstructure optically ineffective at least at one observation angle when the authentication device is illuminated with a light source to thereby enable the latent image to be observed.

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